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# Democratic Convention 2012 DNC



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## Democratic Convention Guide DNC

The 2008 Democratic National Convention will be held from August 25 to August 28 at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado.

This convention is held later than normal because the Democrats want to hold the convention after the 2008 Summer Olympics and to "maximize momentum for our 2008 Democratic DNC Ticket in the final months of the 2008 Presidential election".

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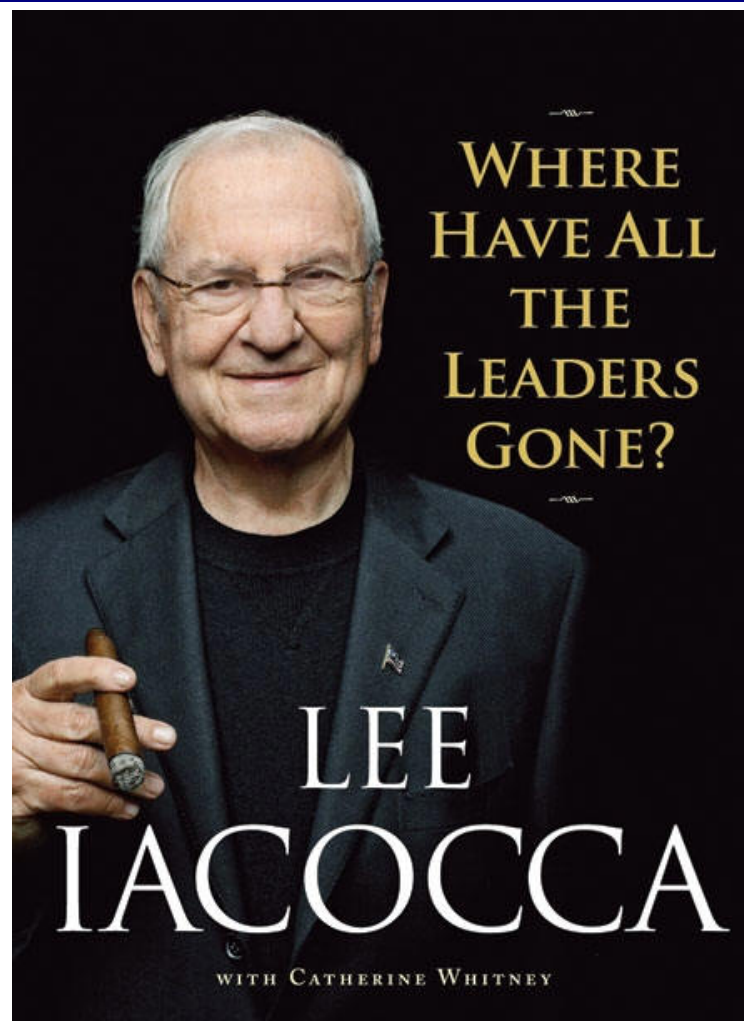
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Remember Lee Iacocca, the man who rescued Chrysler Corporation from its death throes? He's now 82 years old and has a new book, 'Where Have All The Leaders Gone?'.

Lee Iacocca Says:

'Am I the only guy in this country who's fed up with what's happening? Where the hell is our outrage? We should be screaming bloody murder! We've got a gang of clueless bozos steering our ship of state right over a cliff, we've got corporate gangsters stealing us blind, and we can't even clean up after a hurricane much less build a hybrid car. But instead of getting mad, everyone sits around and nods their heads when the politicians say, 'Stay the course.' Stay the course? You've got to be kidding. This is America, not the damned, 'Titanic'. I'll give you a sound bite: 'Throw all the bums out!'

You might think I'm getting senile, that I've gone off my rocker, and maybe I have. But someone has to speak up. I hardly recognize this country anymore.

The most famous business leaders are not the innovators but the guys in handcuffs. While we're fiddling in Iraq, the Middle East is burning and nobody seems to know what to do. And the press is waving 'pom-poms' instead of asking hard questions. That's not the promise of the 'America' my parents and yours traveled across the ocean for. I've had enough. How

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I'll go a step further. You can't call yourself a patriot if you're not outraged. This is a fight I'm ready and willing to have. The Biggest 'C' is Crisis! (Iacocca elaborates on nine C's of leadership, with crisis being the first.)

Leaders are made, not born. Leadership is forged in times of crisis. It's easy to sit there with your feet up on the desk and talk theory. Or send someone else's kids off to war when you've never seen a battlefield yourself. It's another thing to lead when your world comes tumbling down.

On September 11, 2001 , we needed a strong leader more than any other time in our history. We needed a steady hand to guide us out of the ashes. A hell of a mess, so here's where we stand.  
We're immersed in a bloody war with no plan for winning and no plan for leaving.

We're running the biggest deficit in the history of the country. We're losing the manufacturing edge to Asia , while our once-great companies are getting slaughtered by health care costs.

Gas prices are skyrocketing, and nobody in power has a coherent energy policy. Our schools are in trouble.

Our borders are like sieves.

The middle class is being squeezed every which way.

These are times that cry out for leadership.

But when you look around, you've got to ask: 'Where have all the leaders gone?' Where are the curious, creative communicators? Where are the people of character, courage, conviction, omnipotence, and common sense? I may be a sucker for alliteration, but I think you get the point.

Name me a leader who has a better idea for homeland security than making us take off our shoes in airports and throw away our shampoo?

We've spent billions of dollars building a huge new bureaucracy, and all we know how to do is react to things that have already happened.

Name me one leader who emerged from the crisis of Hurricane Katrina. Congress has yet to spend a single day evaluating the response to the hurricane or demanding accountability for the decisions that were made in the crucial hours after the storm.

Everyone's hunkering down, fingers crossed, hoping it doesn't happen again. Now, that's just crazy. Storms happen. Deal with it. Make a plan. Figure out what you're going to do the next time.

Name me an industry leader who is thinking creatively about how we can restore our competitive edge in manufacturing.. Who would have believed that there could ever be a time when 'The Big Three' referred to Japanese car companies? How did this happen, and more important, what are we going to do about it?

Name me a government leader who can articulate a plan for paying down the debit, or solving the energy crisis, or managing the health care problem. The silence is deafening. But these are the crises that are eating away at our country and milking the middle class dry.

I have news for the gang in Congress. We didn't elect you to sit on your asses and do nothing and remain silent while our democracy is being hijacked and our greatness is being replaced with mediocrity.

What is everybody so afraid of? That some bonehead on Fox News will call them a name? Give me a break. Why don't you guys show some spine for a change?

Had Enough? Hey, I'm not trying to be the voice of gloom and doom here. I'm trying to light a fire. I'm speaking out because I have hope - I believe in America . In my lifetime, I've had the privilege of living through some of America 's greatest moments. I've also experienced some of our worst crises: The 'Great Depression,' 'World War II,' the 'Korean War,' the 'Kennedy Assassination,' the 'Vietnam War,' the 1970's oil crisis, and the struggles of recent years culminating with 9/11.

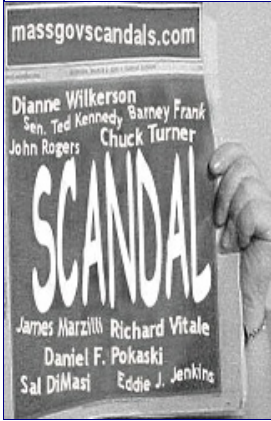
If I've learned one thing, it's this: 'You don't get anywhere by standing on the sidelines waiting for somebody else to take action. Whether it's building a better car or building a better future for our children, we all have a role to play. That's the challenge I'm raising in this book. It's a "Call to Action" for people who, like me, believe in America '. It's not too late, but it's getting pretty close. So let's shake off the crap and go to work. Let's tell 'em all we 've had 'enough.'

Make your own contribution by sending this to everyone you know and care about. It's our country, folks, and it's our future. Our future is at stake!!



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**AP sources: Va.'s Kaine to take over as DNC leader**



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WASHINGTON – President-elect Barack Obama has selected Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine as the next chairman of the Democratic National Committee, two Democrats said Sunday.

The officials spoke to The Associated Press on a condition of anonymity because the decision had not yet been officially announced. The Washington Post first reported the selection Sunday on its Web site.

Kaine plans to work at the party part-time until 2010, when his term as governor is up and he can take over the DNC full-time.

Current DNC chairman Howard Dean plans to step down Jan. 21, the day after Obama's inauguration.

Obama has also chosen Jennifer O'Malley Dillon, who directed his successful campaign battleground state strategy, to run day-to-day operations at the party as executive director.

With Democrats controlling the White House and Congress, the new DNC chairman will be responsible for reinforcing the White House message, preparing for the 2010 midterm elections and raising money.

The Republican National Committee is set to decide in the coming weeks between six candidates for chairman, including current head Mike Duncan, who is running for re-election. The new RNC head will be expected to take the lead in responding to the Democratic administration as well as rebuilding a party left in tatters after sweeping defeats in two straight elections

Gov. Tim Kaine, of Virginia, who was a top contender to be President-elect Barack Obama's running mate, has been tapped by him to become the next chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Democrats familiar with the decision said Sunday.



### Obama McCain Presidential Election 2008

Popular vote	67,842,818	58,989,852
Percentage	52.8%	45.9%

### 2008 USA Presidential Election Popular Vote Totals



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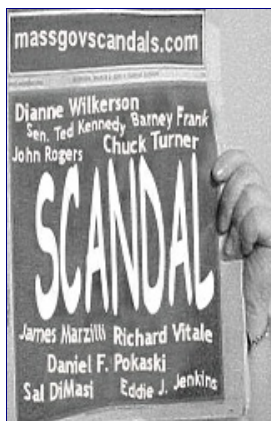


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[posted at 12:50 pm on July 6, 2008 by Ed Morrissey](#)

The woes of the DNC continue in Denver, and even the [New York Times](#) has taken notice. In some ways, it provides an excellent manifestation of Democratic Democratic governance. Underfunded, overspent, and chock-full of unrealistic mandates, the entire enterprise appears on the brink of failure — and Team Obama has six weeks to attempt a rescue:

Some of the Democratic missteps started soon after planning for the event began. The [Democratic National Convention](#) Committee decided not to take cheap office space and instead rented top-quality offices in downtown Denver at \$100,000 a month, only to need less than half the space, which it then filled with rental furniture at \$50,000 a month. And in a costly misstep, the Denver host committee, early on, told corporate donors that their contributions were not tax-deductible, rather than to encourage donations by saying that the tax-exempt application was pending and expected to be approved.

Overly ambitious environmental goals — to turn the event into a “green” Democratic convention — have backfired as only three states’ full delegations have so far agreed to participate in the program. Negotiations over where to locate demonstrators remain unsettled with members of the national news media concerned over proposals to locate the demonstrators — with their loud gatherings — next to the media tent.

And then there is the food: A 28-page contract requested by Denver organizers that caterers provide food in “at least three of the following five colors: red, green, yellow, blue/purple and white.” Garnishes could not be counted toward the colors. No fried foods would be allowed. Organic and locally grown foods were mandated, and each plate had to be 50 percent fruits and vegetables. As a result, caterers are shying away.

For the [Democratic Party](#), the danger is that a poorly run Democratic convention, or one that misses the mark financially, will reflect badly on the party and raise questions about Democratic management skills. And more worrisome for the Obama campaign is that it will be left with the bill for overruns or fund-raising shortfalls, and that the candidate will have to compete in raising money against a convention effort desperate for cash.





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[Pelosi named 2008 Democratic Convention chair](#)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will be the Permanent Chair of the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, leading an all-female team of chairs and co-chairs: [More...](#)

On the last point, Barack Obama has only himself to blame. He could have kept his word and accepted the public financing that every major-ticket presidential candidate has used since Watergate, including Obama's opponent, John McCain. Instead, Obama abandoned the key part of the political reform he says he supports — and now will have to compete against the DNC and Hillary Clinton for funds among Democrats.

As for the rest, who could have hoped for a better demonstration of Democratic Convention mismanagement? First, the host committee overspends while at the same time struggled to raise money for the democratic convention. For a party that rails about deficit spending, they certainly don't have a problem running up bills they cannot pay. Next, they let the nanny-state extremists in the party dictate the available food, rather than let the delegates and the guests make their own decisions on their diet, driving off private enterprise. They failed to reckon with the states when dictating environmental requirements, which sounds quite familiar indeed for those opposed to federalist principles. Most notoriously, they issued eco-friendly specs for fanny packs that demanded a product that didn't exist.

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45%

40%

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CNN's national general election "poll of polls" consists of three surveys: Time (June 19-25), LA Times/Bloomberg (June 19-23), and Gallup (June 24-26). The poll of polls showed 15% unsure; it does not have a sampling error. [More...](#)

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# Democratic Convention 2008 Host Lagging on Funds

By [Peter Slevin](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer

DENVER Democratic Convention-- The committee that will host the [Democratic National Convention](#) announced this week that it is \$10 million short of the \$40.6 million it promised to raise by mid-June.

Organizers of the Denver 2008 democratic convention host committee blame the sluggish economy, the city's limited corporate base and the distraction of the long Democratic primary fight, which [Sen. Barack Obama](#) (D-Ill.) won less than two weeks ago.







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Colorado officials said they would come up with the money before the democratic convention opens on Aug. 25, likely by tapping the power of Obama's fundraising capabilities.

"We have to raise \$10 million or \$11 million more. Now that we have the primary season over, it's happening a lot faster, but it needs to happen a lot faster because the democratic convention's roaring up on us," said [Rep. Ed Perlmutter](#) (D-Colo.). "The campaign is now invested in making the whole thing a success."

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Obama camp in panic as 'Xena' Sarah Palin scythes through support

Palinmania has washed away the Democrat's lead in key states

Sarah Baxter, Washington

THE high-heeled, moose-hunting governor of Alaska has sent Barack Obama's campaign into a state of panic as support for the Democratic presidential candidate hemorrhages in the battleground states he must win to reach the White House.

Sarah Palin, 44, continued to scythe through Obama's support among women by taunting the first potential black president for declining to choose Hillary Clinton as his running mate and by declaring that questions about juggling work and family were "kind of irrelevant" in the modern age.

The mother of five, who has been called Xena, the warrior princess, said in a television interview: "I think he's regretting not picking [Clinton] now, I





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do. What determination and grit and even grace through some tough shots that were fired her way - she handled those well," Palin said.

She presented herself as a champion of no-fuss, no-non-sense working mothers. "Of course you can be the vice-presi-dent and you can raise a family," she said brightly. "I'm the governor and I'm raising a family."

In the face of Palin's onslaught, Obama has continued to base his campaign on the outdated claim that John McCain and his running mate represent four more years of a failed Bush administration.

A senior Obama adviser said candidly that claim did not work. "I don't think it's sticking. The McCain campaign has stolen our message of 'change' - the very thing we've been campaigning on for 20 months. Well, who's the change? It's McCain." Palin's astounding rise has left the Obama camp floundering for a new narrative that will capture the imagination of voters in the run-up to the November 4 election. "There is overreaction and panic," the official admitted. "The hard part for Barack is she's stolen his thunder a bit. It has knocked us off our game."

In a series of interviews with ABC, Palin brushed aside charges that she had changed her mind about a notoriously expensive "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska and distorted her record of seeking congressional subsidies for her home state. The only "gotcha" moment came when she was at a loss to understand the concept of the Bush doctrine, defined by Charles Gibson, the interviewer, as the right to self-defense by taking preemptive action against terrorists. Gibson, however, has run into criticism from conservatives for patronizing Palin over a doctrine whose definition has changed and is not widely recognized outside the world of Washington foreign policy analysts.

Obama's adviser said the attacks had misfired. "At the end of the day, women are sick of men running everything. They're thinking, 'Enough already.' It has nothing to do with what she stands for. Our mistake was thinking women had nowhere else to go."

The Democrat cheers that greeted the selection of veteran senator Joe Biden, 65, the chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, as Obama's running mate have died away.

"If we had picked Hillary Clinton, we would have saved ourselves three months of anguish over the summer," the official said. "If we had spent the time unifying the party, we'd be in a totally different place. I'm not sure McCain would have picked Palin if Hillary was VP."

Palinmania has washed away Obama's polling leads in several swing states that he had been counting on to win.

A clutch of polls last week showed McCain ahead by five points in Missouri, four in Ohio, four in Virginia and eight in Florida. New Mexico and Nevada, two Obama targets, recorded narrow leads for McCain. Other states that had appeared to be comfortably in the Democratic camp now look precarious. In blue-collar New Jersey, Obama's lead has shrunk to three points; in latte-sipping Washington, it is down to two.

He is still narrowly ahead in Colorado and Michigan, where Palin has been campaigning energetically, but the ground is shifting beneath his feet. Advisers fear the get-out-the-vote machine that served Obama so well in the primary campaign against Clinton will be overwhelmed by Palin's legion of female fans. "Are we running a primary campaign in a general election?" the adviser wondered. "Our campaign has an unbelievable ground game. It's far superior to McCain's but at the end of the day, people vote on emotion. Do I like you? Do I trust you? Do you care about me?"

A poll by the Associated Press last week showed that white women preferred McCain to Obama by 53% to 40%.

"People still don't know what Obama stands for. There's a perceived elitism and something aloof about him. They just don't connect with him," the adviser added. "As a person, Palin is very intriguing. She's attractive and funny and she's a hell of a speaker. There's an element of 'she's like us'."

It is all the more galling for Obama's supporters that Palin has been in the news for little more than a fortnight. Voters told pollsters last summer that they had heard too much about Obama but they cannot get enough of Palin for now.

She remains a high-risk choice for McCain, who has been overshadowed by Palin's role as "campaigner-in-chief". The crowds melted away for McCain's first solo appearance without her last week at a Pennsylvania diner where he was heckled by Obama supporters.

There is still much to learn about the Alaska governor before voters go to the polls. Investigators in her home state are seeking to subpoena Todd Palin, her husband, for his alleged role in Troopergate - a dispute over the alleged dismissal of a police chief for refusing to sack Palin's former brother-in-law, a state trooper who had fallen out with her family.

The tabloid National Enquirer, basking in new-found credibility after it exposed the former White House candidate John Edwards as an adulterer, claimed in its latest issue that Palin's 19-year-old son Track was a regular drug abuser who was packed off to the army to clean up. His unit deployed to Iraq last week on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Obama campaign expects support for Palin to subside. It takes comfort from memories of the collapse of Clinton, who was leading by double-digits in the polls when she mishandled a question about driving licences for immigrants. Her standing plummeted.

However, there is little time for voter disillusion to set in. Palin's working-class, Wal-Mart-mom appeal and moving life story are insulating her from attack.

Her decision to raise Trig, a Down's syndrome baby, and support for her pregnant 17-year-old daughter Bristol have been



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widely praised.

At a rally attended by 23,000 supporters in Fairfax, Virginia, last week, Jayne Young, 57, a registered independent, said: "My heart goes out to her family. I liked what she said about being 'just an average American family'. You can be one of those übermoms and on your kids 100% of the time and they still go off the rails."

Katherine Hoppe, 65, was wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan "Another Democrat for McCain". She worked as a volunteer at Hillary Clinton's headquarters in Ballston, Virginia, and was present at her concession speech to Obama.

"I felt horrible," she said. "When McCain announced that he had picked Palin, I went crazy. When you're my age and Hillary's, you want to give to the next generation. Hillary did that. She gave us Sarah."

Clinton is said by friends to be "gutted" that she put 18m cracks in the glass ceiling for women only to have Palin kick in the pane. But she is thought to share Palin's conviction that the media are treating the Alaskan governor unfairly.

Mark Penn, Clinton's former chief strategist, said: "The media is doing the kinds of stories on Palin that they're not doing on the other candidates. People are going to conclude that they're giving her a rougher time. This is an election in which the voters are going to decide for themselves."

Some conservatives are concerned that Republicans are overplaying the sexist card. Earlier this year, Palin accused Clinton of "whining" about the attacks on her, but the McCain camp worked itself into an even greater lather last week over Obama's comments about "putting lipstick on a pig" - regarded as an insult to their "pitbull in lipstick".

Ramesh Ponnuru, an editor with the conservative journal National Review, complained: "The Republicans are coming across as whiny grievance-mon-gers. Don't they realise that this harping on ambiguous slights is what people hate about political correctness? It was bad enough when liberals were trying to destroy Palin. Now Republicans are trashing her brand. They're undermining her appeal as a different, tougher kind of female politician."

After repeated jabs from McCain, including the false charge that Obama supported sex education for kinder-garteners, the Illinois senator hit back with a negative advertisement mocking his 72-year-old rival for being out of date and out of touch with computer technology, including e-mail.

It backfired when it emerged that McCain was unable to type because he was injured as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

The Obama adviser said the Democratic candidate should remain true to himself. "He has to be who he is. When he was totally himself, he was doing so well. He should keep at the things he cares about instead of having people turn him into a pretzel.

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## 2008 - Post-convention Pop, Sarah Palin big draw at rallies.



BY TOM BRUNE | tom.brune@newsday.com



CEDARBURG, Wis. - If there was any doubt that John McCain's surprise pick of Sarah Palin has grabbed the attention of many Republicans, Barbara Falk, a retiree born and raised in this quaint small town, put it to rest yesterday: "I came out to see her."

So did Falk's friend Pat Mantel, who said, "I do enjoy that vice president that McCain picked." And so did Mantel's sister Carol Eberhardt, a retired lab worker and single mother of three, who said, "She speaks my language."

A day after McCain gave what many critics panned as a flat acceptance speech, Palin proved to be a popular draw.

She energized a once-sparkless campaign in the McCain-Palin ticket's first two campaign stops after the Republican National Convention.

Crowds of people jammed streets for blocks around the downtown stage set up here for the GOP ticket - the campaign put out a crowd estimate, drawn from the area, of 12,000 (matching Cedarburg's population).

It would be a scene repeated yesterday afternoon in Sterling Heights, Mich., a Reagan Democrat stronghold.

Many at the first rally said they wanted to see the mother of five and first female Alaska governor, whom they referred to simply as



"Sarah." Most always vote Republican and likely would vote for McCain anyway.

But Kathi Czarnecki, an investor, said, "I think Sarah has re-energized the party."

Palin has become a new weapon for the strategists running the McCain campaign, plugging into its retooled anti-Washington message of reform. She also serves as an entrée into small-town America.

Friday marked the trial run. To the chants of "Sarah, Sarah, Sarah," Palin spoke for about a dozen minutes, debuting her stump speech derived from her well-watched acceptance address at the convention and launching the attack against Democrat Barack Obama.

When McCain took his turn, he praised Palin before calling for reform and describing his fight against corruption among Democrats and Republicans.

But on the bad economic news of the day - another 84,000 jobs lost nationwide last month - McCain offered no rosy picture, though he promised to create millions of jobs, mostly by cutting taxes. "A little straight talk. These are tough times," he said. "You're worried about keeping your job, and struggling to put food on your table."

His solution: Have government not stand in their way, but stand by their side.

Obama criticized the proposal as inadequate, saying it's not that McCain doesn't care, but that "He just doesn't get it."

Meanwhile, the Alaska Legislature is speeding its probe into whether Palin abused her power as governor by firing the state public safety commissioner, who had refused to fire a state trooper who had gone through a messy divorce and custody battle with Palin's sister. But the results might be incomplete: Seven witnesses won't give depositions, said the senator overseeing the probe.

The trooper at the center of the controversy, Palin's former brother-in-law Mike Wooten, told CNN that he has "made mistakes, and I've learned from those mistakes." But Wooten, 36, also denied some of the biggest allegations against him, including drinking while driving.



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By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER **Hillary/Biden 2008 Dream Ticket? - Democratic Convention**

**DENVER --** [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) supporters had mixed reactions Saturday to the selection of Joe Biden as the Democrats' vice presidential candidate.

Some realized a long time ago that [Barack Obama](#) the party's presumptive nominee for president, was not going to pick Clinton as his running mate. Others held out hope until they awoke to the announcement Saturday morning.

Susan Castner, a Clinton delegate from Portland, Ore., said she sees some of Clinton's qualities in Biden. She likes his experience, especially on foreign policy.

"It really kind of humanizes Barack Obama," Castner said. "He has this air of perfection, and Joe Biden is more down to earth."

"I love his passion," Castner said of Biden. "I like him a lot."

Obama announced Saturday that Biden, a senator from Delaware for the past 36 years, would be his running mate, passing over Clinton, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine and Indiana [Sen. Evan Bayh](#).

Clinton issued a statement Saturday praising Obama's decision and calling Biden "an exceptionally strong, experienced leader and devoted public servant."

Some of her supporters were less charitable.

"It's a total diss to Sen. Clinton, in my opinion," said Diane Mantouvalos, co-founder of the Just Say No Deal Coalition. "It just speaks volumes about how Barack Obama doesn't stand for anything."

Mantouvalos, of Miami, is part of an Internet movement of Clinton supporters who refuse to back Obama, regardless of pleas from Clinton herself. Mantouvalos is in Denver, where the Democratic National Convention is scheduled to start Monday, stoking anti-Obama sentiment.

She said the selection of a Washington insider undermines Obama's call for change.

"It was a desperate move," Mantouvalos said.

John West, a Clinton volunteer during the primaries, said he's not excited about Biden, but he had little hope that Clinton would get the nod.

"Most people feel that if she wanted to press to be vice president, she would have made a bigger push for it," said West, of Chicago.

West has been working with Clinton delegates to have her name placed in nomination at the convention, with a roll call vote \_ a vote that was agreed to by both Obama and Clinton.

## Democratic Convention 2008 Obama/Biden



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## Democrats choose Obama in historic acclamation

DENVER - Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history as the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.



[Biden 2008 VP pick draws Democratic praise, GOP criticism \(more\)](#)

By BETH FOUHY and LIZ SIDOTI

**CHICAGO — Barack Obama introduced Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware on Saturday as “a leader ready to step in and be president,” and the newly named running mate quickly converted his debut on the Democratic ticket into a slashing attack on Republican John McCain.**

**The GOP presidential contender will have to “figure out which of the seven kitchen tables to sit at” when considering his own economic future, said Biden, jabbing at the man he nevertheless**



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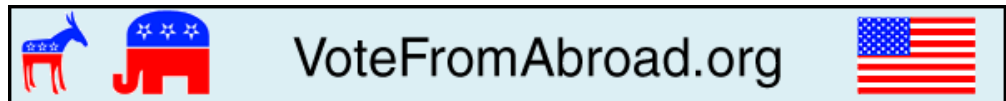
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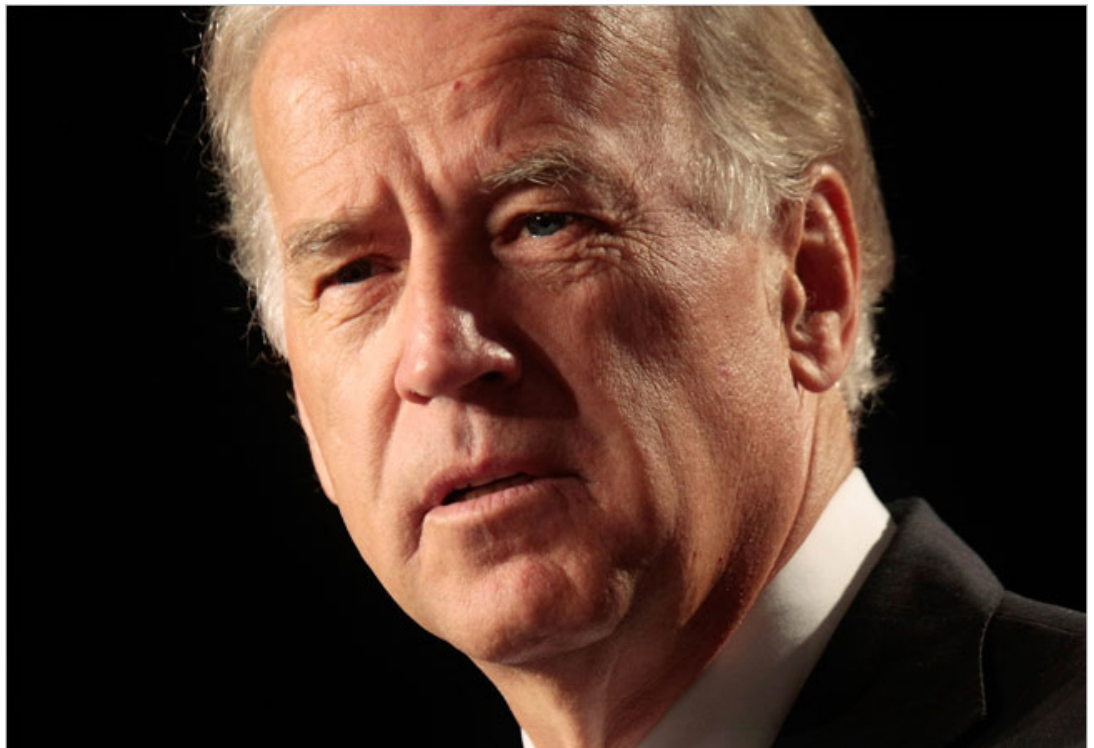
called his personal friend. ([more](#))

[Democratic Convention 2008 - Hillary Clinton / Barack Obama / Joe Biden](#)



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[“There has been no harsher critic of Barack Obama’s lack of experience than Joe Biden. Biden has denounced Barack Obama’s poor foreign policy judgment and has strongly argued in his own words what Americans are quickly realizing — that Barack Obama is not ready to be President,” said Ben Porritt, a spokesman for Mr. McCain.](#)

[Although Mr. Biden is not exactly a household name, he is probably the best known of all the Democrats who were in contention for the spot, given his political and personal history \(not to mention his regular appearances on the Sunday morning television news shows\). He first ran for the Senate from Delaware when he was just 29.](#)





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Mr. Biden has run twice for the presidency himself, in 1988 and again in 2008, dropping out early in both cases. He was also the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee during two of the most contentious [Supreme Court](#) nomination battles of the past 50 years: the confirmation proceedings for [Robert H. Bork](#), who was defeated, and [Clarence Thomas](#), who was confirmed after an explosive hearing in which [Anita Hill](#) had accused Mr. Thomas of sexual harassment. Mr. Biden led the opposition to both nominations, although he came under criticism from some feminists for not immediately disclosing what were at first Ms. Hill's closed-door accusations against Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Obama's choice of Mr. Biden suggested some of the weaknesses the Obama campaign is trying to address at a time when national polls suggest that his race with Senator [John McCain](#), the presumptive Republican nominee, is tightening.

## Los Angeles TimesLos Angeles TimesLos Angeles Times Bill Clinton Democratic Convention 2008 Denver

Former US president Bill Clinton will deliver a speech at the Democratic Party's national convention 2008 later this month, party officials said today.

### Democratic Convention:

The confirmation follows weeks of speculation over the former president's potential role after his wife Hillary was beaten by Barack Obama in a prolonged and often bitter primary campaign.

Mr. Clinton often overshadowed his wife on the campaign trail and made headlines across the world when many US pundits thought he was belittling Mr. Obama's success in South Carolina.

In one televised debate, Mr. Obama said he sometimes "did not know which Clinton he was running against".

But he will now deliver a key speech on the third night of the convention, August 27th, in Denver, Colorado, before an address by Mr. Obama's running mate, who has not yet been named.

The 47-year-old Illinois senator, who flew to Hawaii today for a week-long break from the campaign trail, dismissed suggestions that tension between his supporters and Mrs. Clinton's could upset the gathering.

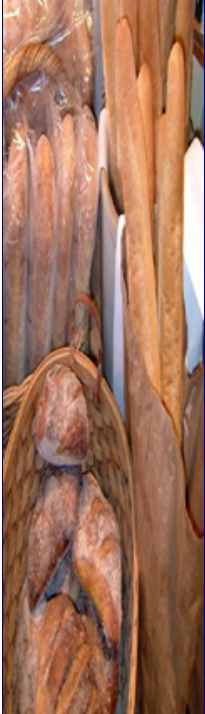
Yesterday, the two Democratic senators pledged that their party would be united.

Both campaigns issued a joint statement of unity amid conflicting reports over whether New York senator Mrs Clinton will include her name in the delegate roll call at the convention.

The joint statement read: "At the Democratic Convention, we will ensure that the voices of everyone who participated in this historic process are respected and our party will be fully unified heading into the November election."

Some Clinton supporters have said they intend to disrupt the nomination process if they feel the 60-year-old New York senator is not accorded proper deference at the convention. Their demands include that her name is entered into contention, and the votes of her delegates officially recorded.

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# Deval Patrick News



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## Deval Patrick to address Democratic Convention

By Associated Press **BOSTON - Gov. Deval Patrick has landed a speaking slot at the Democratic National Convention.**

The state's first black governor will address delegates on at the Democratic Convention Tuesday, Aug. 26, the same night Hillary Rodham Clinton will speak. Her speech coincides with the 88th anniversary of a woman's right to vote.

[Patrick](#) endorsed eventual nominee Barack Obama over Clinton in the Democratic primary fight, and he has been mentioned as a member of a potential Obama administration.

The governor says he looks forward to seeking re-election in 2010.

Nonetheless, the governor has been serving on the convention's Platform Committee. And he says in a statement that he is honored to play a part in a gathering with such historic connotations.

Obama is poised to become the first black nominee of a major political party.



## Democratic Aides Working on Plan To Keep the Peace At the Democratic Convention 2008





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**YAHOO! NEWS YAHOO! NEWS YAHOO! NEWS YAHOO! NEWS YAHOO! NEWS YAHOO! NEWS**

Though Barack Obama has not embraced the idea, some supporters of Hillary Rodham Clinton are calling for a symbolic roll-call vote at the convention. (By Jason Decrow -- Associated Press)

With the clock running out on preparations for the Democratic convention, advisers to Sen. Barack Obama are scrambling to reach a compromise with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to appease her supporters and find roles for her and her husband.

The Obama and Clinton camps said this week that they agree on a central point: They would like to avoid an embarrassing display of discord from Clinton's most ardent backers when the national convention begins in just over two weeks. Conversations about how to achieve that have increasingly focused on the question of whether Clinton's name will be offered in a roll-call vote by delegates to determine the nominee, even though she has said she is not challenging Obama's claim as the party's standard-bearer.

Clinton confidante Cheryl Mills is working directly with Obama campaign manager David Plouffe to reach an accommodation, both sides confirmed. Clinton has been told that she will probably speak Tuesday night, Aug. 26, two nights before Obama's acceptance speech, and she is working on her remarks, which will touch on her breakthrough as a woman but will be, in the words of one associate, largely "forward looking."

Former president Bill Clinton is almost certain to play a role, perhaps on Wednesday, Aug. 27, advisers said, despite his lukewarm embrace so far of the Democratic candidate. His apparent reluctance to declare that Obama is qualified for the presidency in an interview with ABC this week left Obama aides rolling their eyes. Bill Clinton and Obama held their second phone conversation since the end of the primaries this week, aides said, part of a thawing process that the two sides hope will accelerate as the month goes on.

Exactly what the formal nominating process will look like at the convention remains an open question. Last week, Hillary Clinton told supporters in a meeting in Palo Alto, Calif., posted on YouTube, that she was looking for a "strategy" to keep the peace and that sometimes a "catharsis" is necessary. Her comments were read by some as suggesting that the process could require a roll-call vote that would enumerate her supporters, even though she would still lose the nomination.

"The best way I think to do that is to have a strategy so that my delegates feel like they've had a role and that their legitimacy has been validated," she said.



"It's as old as Greek drama," Clinton said. "There's a catharsis. Everybody comes, and they want to yell and scream and have their opportunity, and I think that's all to the good."





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WASHINGTON - Hillary Rodham Clinton is ending her historic bid to become the first female president and will back rival Barack Obama on Saturday, capping a 17-month quest that began with the words "I'm in it to win it" with a more humble plea for party unity.

Hours after Barack Obama sealed the nomination, Democrats coalesced around his candidacy, sending a strong signal to Clinton that it was time to bow out. The former first lady told House Democrats during a private conference call Wednesday that she will express support for Obama's candidacy and congratulate him for gathering the necessary delegates to be the party's nominee.

The New York Times The New York Times The New York Times The New York Times The New York Times



**Democrats Start Scramble for DNC 2008**

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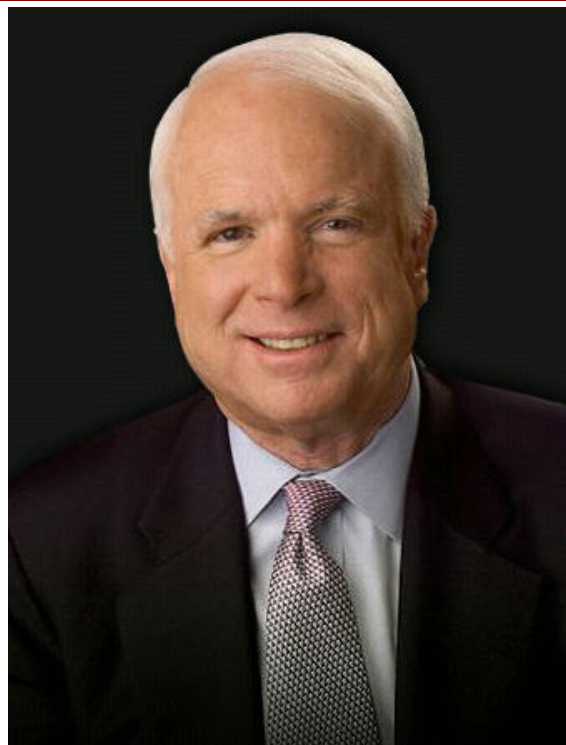
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## Democratic Convention Election 2008 Polls: Women favor Obama



By Alex Brandon, AP

Obama's gender advantage is larger than Democratic nominee John Kerry's 51%-48% showing against President Bush in the 2004 general election.

By [Jill Lawrence](#), USA TODAY  
 WASHINGTON — Barack Obama has moved into double-digit leads over Republican John McCain in two new polls of women voters, suggesting he is drawing support from women who once backed Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama led McCain 51%-38% in Gallup polling of 2,263 registered female voters June 5-9. The 13-percentage-point lead among women was up from 5 points the previous week, before the Democratic nomination ended. Obama now matches Clinton's performance against McCain, Gallup said Wednesday.

The Gallup results mirrored Obama's 52%-39% lead among women in a Rasmussen Reports poll of 3,000 likely voters June 8-10. The polls' margins of error are +/- 2 to 3 percentage points. Clinton on June 4 signaled her intent to withdraw and officially suspended her campaign Saturday. Some of her supporters said they would never vote for Obama, and one man, Ed Hale, started a website for former Clinton supporters now backing McCain.

Minnesota Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty and other McCain supporters, meanwhile, predicted McCain would win many of the women who voted for Clinton.

Two of Clinton's strongest advocates went on the offensive Wednesday to quash that line of thinking. "I think that idea's a pipe dream. Sen. McCain is really out of touch with the lives these women are leading," Ellen Malcolm, president of the fundraising group EMILY's List, said in a conference call.

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Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., said McCain opposes funding for universal pre-kindergarten, favors a ban on abortion, and was against a bill easing the way for women to file lawsuits to get equal pay for equal work. "He is wrong on the issues that matter to women most," she said.

McCain spokesman Brian Rogers said Clinton backers will be drawn to McCain because, like her, he is an experienced hand on national security. "He's prepared to step into the Oval Office and lead on Day One, and that's a big contrast with Sen. Obama," Rogers said. "That's something that a lot of women care about."

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Obama's gender advantage is larger than Democratic nominee John Kerry's 51%-48% showing against President Bush in the 2004 general election. But it is similar to a Gallup Poll in June of that year showing Kerry with 54% support from women to 39% for Bush.

Strategist Mark Mellman, who polled for Kerry and was neutral this year, said attacks on Kerry helped erode his standing — but his greater problem was that the "underlying fundamentals" of the race favored Bush. This year, he said, they "point pretty strongly to Democrats and Obama."

Mellman said he is not surprised to see women starting to coalesce behind Obama. Some Clinton supporters are angry, he said, including some members of his extended family. "There are such people," he said. "But they seem to be a distinct minority and over time they will be a shrinking minority."

Wasserman Schultz said "ardent Hillary supporters," including many in her pivotal home state, are going through a mourning period. She said Obama "has a real opportunity to win over the ones that are being the most vocal."

Malcolm said the real work will involve attracting blue-collar women. "They have the power to determine the results of this election," she said.

**DRUDGE REPORT DRUDGE REPORT DRUDGE REPORT DRUDGE REPORT DRUDGE REPORT DRUDGE REPORT**

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

### The Greenest Show on Earth: Democrats Gear Up for DNC Denver 2008

From Organic Fanny Packs to 'Pure' Trash,  
Party Planners Face Logistical Nightmare

By STEPHANIE SIMON

**DENVER** -- As the Mile High City gears up to host a Democratic Convention bash for 50,000, organizers are discovering the perils of trying to stage a political spectacle that's also politically correct.

Consider the fanny packs.

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The host committee for the Democratic National Convention wanted 15,000 fanny packs for volunteers. But they had to be made of organic cotton. By unionized labor. In the USA.

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Talk to Herbl



With biodegradable balloons and organic snacks, Denver Democrats hope to stage the "greenest convention" ever. See examples.

history of the planet."

weary conclusion: "That just doesn't exist."

Ditto for the baseball caps. "We have a union cap or an organic cap," Mr. DeMasse says. "But we don't have a union-organic offering."

Much of the hand-wringing can be blamed on Denver's Democratic mayor, John Hickenlooper, who challenged his party and his city to "make this the greenest convention in the

Democratic Convention organizers hired the first-ever Director of [Greening](#), longtime environmental activist Andrea Robinson. Her response to the mayor's challenge: "That terrifies me!"

After all, the last time Democrats met in Denver -- to nominate William Jennings Bryan in 1908 -- they dispatched horse-drawn wagons to bring snow from the Rocky Mountains to cool the meeting hall. Ms. Robinson suspected modern-day delegates would prefer air conditioning. So she quickly modified the mayor's goal: She'd supervise "the most sustainable political convention in modern American history."

Now, she must pull it off.

To test whether celebratory balloons advertised as biodegradable actually will decompose, Ms. Robinson buried samples in a steaming compost heap. She hired an Official Carbon Adviser, who will measure the greenhouse-gas emissions of every placard, every plane trip, every appetizer prepared and every coffee cup tossed. The Democrats hope to pay penance for those emissions by investing in renewable energy projects.

Perhaps Ms. Robinson's most audacious goal is to reuse, recycle or compost at least 85% of all waste generated during the convention.

#### The Trash Brigade

To police the four-day event Aug. 25-28, she's assembling (via paperless online signup) a trash brigade. Decked out in green shirts, 900 volunteers will hover at waste-disposal stations to make sure delegates put each scrap of trash in the proper bin. Lest a fork slip into the wrong container unnoticed, volunteers will paw through every bag before it is hauled away.



Andrea Robinson

"That's the only way to make sure it's pure," Ms. Robinson says.

Republicans are pushing conservation, too, as they gear up for their convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Like the Democrats, they're cutting down on printing by doing as much work as possible by email; using recycled office furniture; and urging employees to walk or take public transportation to work. The Republicans also encourage vendors to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

But Matt Burns, a spokesman for the Republican convention, looks on with undisguised glee at some of the Democrats' efforts -- such as the "lean 'n' green" catering guidelines.

Among them: No fried food. And, on the theory that nutritious food is more vibrant, each meal should include "at least three of the following colors: red, green, yellow, blue/purple, and white." (Garnishes don't count.) At least 70% of ingredients should be organic or grown locally, to minimize emissions from fuel burned during transportation. "One would think," says Mr. Burns, "that the Democrats in Denver have bigger fish to bake -- they have ruled out frying already -- than mandating color-coordinated pretzel platters."

Write to Stephanie Simon at [stephanie.simon@wsj.com](mailto:stephanie.simon@wsj.com)



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## Obama DNC 2008 on the Issues



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[Immigration](#)

Supported Bush-backed immigration reform legislation, which would have increased funding and improved border security technology, improved enforcement of existing laws, and provided a legal path to citizenship for some illegal immigrants. Voted to authorize construction of a 700-mile fence along the U.S.-Mexican border.

[Iraq](#)



Opposed use of military force in Iraq. Voted for war spending bill that would have withdrawn most U.S. troops by March 2008. Supports phased redeployment of U.S. troops. Opposed Bush's plan to send additional troops to Iraq. Had once called for troop withdrawal to begin by the end of 2006.

#### Same-sex marriage

Opposes same-sex marriage, but also opposes a constitutional ban. Supports civil unions.

#### Social Security

Opposes Bush plan allowing workers to divert some Social Security payroll taxes into private retirement accounts.

#### Taxes

Opposed extending 2003 Bush tax cut law through 2010. Supports eliminating marriage penalty and extending child tax credit. Supports scaling back capital gains and dividends tax cuts and re-examining tax benefits for the top one percent of earners.



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"The convention will have a significant economic impact not just on [Denver](#), but it will have a ripple effect across the entire state and the West. This will be great for Denver and great for Colorado. A major reason we were able to compete against a city like New York and ultimately win ... is because Denver made important investments in infrastructure."

- Governor Bill Ritter

"Like the Democratic Party itself, the [Mile High City](#) embodies the 21st century ideals of economic strength, environmental consciousness, regional collaboration, cutting-edge technological infrastructure and visionary zeal that will help lead America in the year 2008 and beyond."

- Mayor John Hickenlooper



[Democratic Convention Denver](#)



## John McCain's Perfect Ride



John McCain can be excused for looking like the cat that ate the canary at a breakfast today in Washington. (AP). *By Joel Achenbach*

How did John McCain become the certain Republican nominee?

With what they call in horse racing a perfect ride.

Yes, there was that rather large stumble last year. The word "imploded" is the officially sanctioned journalistic term for what happened to the McCain campaign. But his timing was fabulous!

Last anyone checked, the spring of 2007 had no scheduled primaries or caucuses. For candidates, reporters and political junkies, the campaign was going great guns, but for citizens, which is to say voters, it was an off year. **MORE...**





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### Democratic National Convention Host Committee 2008

The 2008 Democratic National Convention will be the 2008 United States presidential nominating convention of the Democratic Party. It is scheduled to be held from Monday, August 25, through Thursday, August 28, 2008, in Denver, Colorado. (The 2008 Republican National Convention is planned to start just 4 days later, on September 1, 2008, in St. Paul, Minnesota).



[Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com](#)

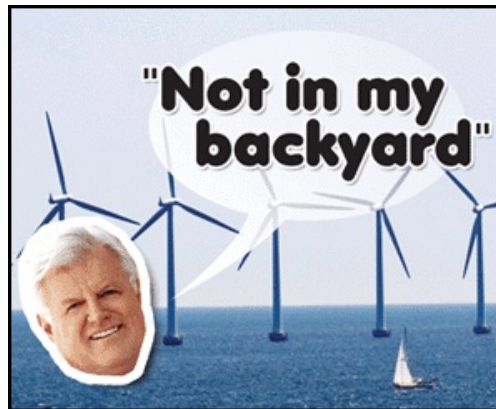
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## 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary

**Democrats: Clinton Still the Frontrunner,  
Iowa Still a Must-Win for Obama and Edwards  
Monday, December 31, 2007**

While the dynamics of the Republican race seem to change almost every day, the storyline in the Democratic nomination race has been the same almost all year. As noted two weeks ago and many times before that, Hillary Clinton is the frontrunner and Iowa is a must-win state for Barack Obama and John Edwards. Now, with just days to go until voters finally get a say in Election 2008, Iowa is way too close to call.

At 10:15 a.m. Eastern Time, Rasmussen Markets data implied that Obama had a 39.5% chance of winning, Clinton a 39.0% chance, and Edwards a 31.7% chance (current prices-- Clinton 34.0 %, Obama 55.0 %, and Edwards 19.0 %).

Still, Clinton remains the frontrunner overall. She holds a commanding lead in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll. On December 31, the markets indicate that she has roughly a 70% chance of capturing the nomination (current prices: Clinton 66.3 %, Obama 26.0 %). It will be interesting to watch the market reaction as results roll in from Iowa and, five days later, New Hampshire.

The stakes in Iowa and New Hampshire are different for each candidate.

Hillary Clinton—Clinton needs to be competitive in

## Political Websites

[c-span.org](http://c-span.org)  
[capitalnews.org](http://capitalnews.org)  
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Primary Clinton—Clinton needs to be competitive in Iowa and win in New Hampshire to retain her status as frontrunner. A win in Iowa would come close to wrapping up the nomination. A result that is perceived as very close or a three-way tie in Iowa would also be okay for Clinton. A loss in both Iowa and New Hampshire would obviously be a major setback for the former First Lady. But, depending upon the magnitude of the defeats, she might still have a chance to re-group and come back.

Barack Obama—Obama needs to win Iowa if he is to have a shot at the nomination. He then needs to either win or finish a very close second in New Hampshire to keep the campaign going.

John Edwards—He has managed to lower expectations enough that a win in Iowa would give him a huge boost of momentum. However, it's not clear at the moment whether he is in a position to capitalize on it.

Edwards has released a video on Reforming Washington, Clinton's video asks "What if We'd Had a Different President This Year?", and Barack Obama "Stands for Change in Ottumwa"

Rasmussen Reports conducts national telephone surveys on the Presidential race every night and releases updated data from our Presidential Tracking Poll by noon each day.

For the seven days ending December 16, Hillary Clinton earns 38% of the vote. Barack Obama is second at 27% followed by John Edwards at 13%. Bill Richardson is at 3%, Joe Biden attracts 3%, Dennis Kucinich 2%. Chris Dodd and Mike Gravel split 1% while 12% of Likely Democratic Primary Voters are undecided (review history of weekly results).

The seven day results typically include interviews with more than 1,000 Likely Democratic Primary Voters. This includes both Democrats and those independents likely to vote in a Democratic Primary. In some state primaries, independent voters are allowed to participate in party primaries while in others they are excluded. The margin of sampling error for the weekly update is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence.

Updates prior to July 16 were based upon four days of polling conducted the Monday through Thursday preceding release.

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[michellemalkin.com](http://michellemalkin.com)



**Associated Press**

Students at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, S.C., rallied around their candidates yesterday before the start of the first Democratic debate of the 2008 campaign.



Mike Dino, chief executive of the Denver Host Committee  
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"My presence on this stage is pretty unlikely," Barack Obama said at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Seventeen minutes later, his presence on the national stage was virtually assured. Four months after The Speech, the three-term Illinois state legislator won the race to become a United States senator. Little more than two years later, Obama declared himself a candidate for president of the United States. For the Complete Obama 2004 Speech CLICK HERE

(Photo: AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian)



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